

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Cindy Xinxin Du, I'm a medical student from New Haven Connecticut, and also see patients at HAVEN Free Clinic.

I stand in support of SB284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. Expanding access to HUSKY up to age 18 regardless of immigration status is an important step in making sure our immigrant community has access to the healthcare we all need and deserve. But our work doesn't end with expanding access up to age 18; we need to open access to HUSKY and healthcare to all immigrants of any age, including parents and adults.

My personal connection to this issue is as a student provider at HAVEN Free Clinic, all of our patients are uninsured, and while they are very appreciative of our care, jumping through the hoops to get comprehensive medical care without insurance is extremely taxing to them and has led to many dangerous delays in care. In addition, as an immigrant myself who grew up in New York, which has a more robust health insurance system for immigrants, I have seen how having access to healthcare is a huge benefit to the community, and also makes people better able to contribute to society.

If we want Connecticut to recover from COVID-19, we must work toward ensuring that undocumented immigrants of all ages can access health care. Leaving undocumented parents and adults behind means leaving a large portion of essential workers on the frontlines of the pandemic behind. Healthy Kids Need Healthy Families: If we want healthy kids, the best way to achieve that is to have healthy parents—but currently, we're leaving undocumented parents behind. Children do better when their parents do better. It has been proven that when parents and caregivers have access to health care, their children are more likely to be insured and to use and receive care.

I support S.B. 284 and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. Looking forward, I ask the committee to work towards opening access to all immigrants regardless of age.

Thank you for your time,
Cindy Xinxin Du, 4th Year Medical Student, Yale University